

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 are amended. The revision to claim 1 is supported, for example, at original claim 9. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended editorially. Claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 1-8, 10, and 11 are pending, with claims 1 and 11 being independent.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 9 and 10 are allowed.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3, 4, and 8 stand rejected as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection; however, Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, and 8 in view of the Examiner's statements. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendment this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 stand rejected being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,147,842 (Funabiki). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 9, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the features recited in claim 9. Claim 9 has been canceled. Applicants therefore submit that amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 2-8 and 10 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 3-7 are also believed to be allowable over the cited prior art, for at least the reason that they are dependent upon an allowable base claim.

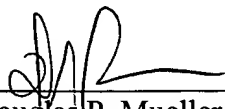
New claim 11 corresponds to previously presented claim 10, which the Examiner indicated is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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